



Westlake High School

Dance Team

2021-2022

Tryout Packet

Dear Parents,

You are receiving this email because your daughter/son has shown an interest in becoming a member of the 2021-2022 WHS Dance Team Program.

Before you give permission and sign the Student/Parent Agreement, please carefully consider the commitment you and your daughter/son are making. Being a dancer is much more than just wearing the uniform. It is an honor and a privilege to represent Westlake High School, and your daughter/son must accept considerable responsibility if she/he is selected for the team. In addition, you will also be committing to considerable time and support.

If you allow your daughter/son to try out, please consider this commitment carefully and realistically. Your daughter/son may experience the disappointment of being eliminated. If so, we hope you will encourage her/him to get involved in some other way at Westlake High School. If your daughter/son is selected to be on the team, your support for the advisor/coach will also be needed. Our desire is that there are no surprises; the rules are clear and will be enforced. While dance team has the potential of adding greatly to a student's high school experience, it is vital that you help your daughter/son understand that dance team requires hard work and dedication as well.

Sincerely,

Jason Branham
Principal

Vicky Torossian
Assistant Principal, Student Activities

Brandy Jones
Dance Team Head Coach

Introduction

Westlake High School Dance Team members set an example for others in their school spirit, leadership, and commitment to their studies. They are held responsible for upholding, reflecting, and projecting the ideals of their school and community. The dance program is demanding in both time and talent. It is an honor and a privilege to be a member of the WHS Dance Team. The program competes regionally and nationally.

This packet is designed to provide both the parents and the student with information about WHS Dance Team. The information contained within this packet is subject to change at the discretion of the coaches, advisor, and/or appropriate administrator(s).

Philosophy

Dance to Express Not to Impress – Westlake High School Dance Team is founded upon the principles of dedication, hard work, comradery, and creativity. The team promotes school spirit by performing at varsity football games and basketball games, school rallies, and other community events. In addition to promoting school spirit at Westlake High School, we are also a highly competitive dance team. The WHS Dance Team competes regionally throughout southern California and we compete at United Spirit Association Nationals every year. The team has also competed at the West Coast Elite National dance competition.

Purpose

The WHS Dance program will focus on the following functions:

1. To provide positive leadership and spirit for the student body and local community by encouraging and demonstrating positive expression of the art of dance.
2. To display good sportsmanship while representing WHS and to serve as role models to the student body.
3. To obtain the skills to develop personal poise, physical strength, stamina, coordination, showmanship, and athleticism.
4. To develop leadership skills, moral character, and a strong work ethic.
5. To function as a TEAM while involved in school activities and community events.

Major Requirements and Responsibilities

1. **Grades:** The CVUSD requires that all students participating in any extracurricular activities maintain a minimum 2.0 (C) average. Students must have this GPA in order to tryout, and must stay at or above this throughout the duration of the year to stay eligible. **Additionally, any current member trying out again must have maintained a B or higher in the dance class (for third quarter 2021) in order to be eligible for tryouts.**
2. **Behavior:** Terms of CVUSD Co-Curricular and Contract are strictly enforced. Dancers are representatives of the school, are expected to display responsible behavior, follow school rules, and be respectful to school staff any time you are wearing any portion of your uniform or spirit wear. A negative attitude or behavior that reflects negatively on the school, the team, and/or you can be grounds for dismissal from the dance team. This includes, but not limited to social networking sites, text messages, and emails. A signed code of conduct is MANDATORY for all students.
3. **Physical Screening:** You must turn in a completed physical form by a doctor of your choosing and submit through the website www.athleticclearance.com with your Dance Team Tryout Packet. Forms are located on the athletic clearance website.
4. **Accident/Injury Insurance:** Though required by state law, most people have some adequate existing provision. If not, the Athletics office has policy information available. Insurance clearance must be completed with your physical form.
5. **Summer practice:** Attendance at all summer practices is critical in order to prepare for the fall season. The summer practice schedule will be distributed at the Post Tryout Parent Meeting.

6. **Uniform:** You will wear your uniform or spirit wear to all games you attend, as well as assigned clothes through the entire school day on the day of a game.
7. **Attendance:** You must be in attendance for 75% of your scheduled school day in order to dance at an event/game that night. In addition, enrollment in the PE/Dance class is required. Failure to attend or participate fully at practices will reflect negatively on your grade for the class. Suspension and/or removal from the team may also result from poor participation or attendance. You are expected to inform the coach in advance for unavoidable absences.

Additionally, attendance at dance events, including practices, games, and competitions must be a priority. It is your responsibility to manage your schedule so that you do not have conflicts. Job responsibilities, family dinners, and doctor's appointments are examples of activities that must be arranged around dance. You are expected to schedule appointments so they do not interfere with practice, games, rallies, shows or competitions. You will be given a schedule of dates and times each season so you and your parents will be able to plan for activities you are required to attend.

8. **Performance:** Each member will be evaluated on a regular basis, both at practice and at games/performances. Grades for PE will, in part, reflect these evaluations.
9. **Parent Participation:** Parents will be asked to assist with various events throughout the year. Without parent participation, it will not be possible for dancers to fully support our school and participate in all of the events as scheduled. Booster Club membership will also allow for coordination and facilitation of communication among and between parents, team members, and school personnel. Parent chaperones may be needed from time to time. Sign-ups for various parent roles will occur at the post-tryout meeting.
10. **Participation in other sports:** The Dance Team program is an all year around activity. Dance team is in season Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring therefore dancers selected to be on the team may not participate in any other sport or other activities that may conflict with the dance schedule.
11. **School Enrollment:** Students who participate in Dance Team will receive 5 credits per semester. Any student who leaves dance team for any reason, prior to the conclusion of the dance season will be considered to have quit the dance team and will be subject to the following consequences:
 - Student may not receive credit for being part of the dance team for the quarter/term in which she/he quit.
 - Student will transfer out with current class grade.
 - Student will not attend the dance team banquet or any other dance team functions.
 - Student will not be allowed to try out for dance team the following year.

Organization

The Assistant Principal of Activities oversees the Westlake High School Dance Team program. The program is managed and coordinated by the WHS Dance Head Coach, Assistant Coaches/Advisory staff. There is no specific number of Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior members. The Team is not guaranteed to reach a maximum number but will use the natural break in points to dictate size. The program also selects understudies/alternates to train with the team. Should a team member fall ill, have an injury or emergency that would keep them from competing, the understudies/alternates are trained to step in where needed. This is only applicable for competition routines. The understudies/alternates participate 100% in any non-competitive performances.

Tryout and Selection Process

Students interested in trying out for the dance team program are required to submit completed application and forms prior to being permitted to attend tryout session days. Dance Team Application can be found in this packet. All required paperwork and other items must be submitted to Jennifer Leese, Activities Secretary, by **MAY 18, 2021** by email at jleese@conejousd.org.

- The most important item is a current *CVUSD physical* on file at www.athleticclearance.com. Physical forms are attached to this handout. Your child must have a current (less than one year old) physical on file in order to be allowed to tryout. Failure to submit a current physical form completed by a doctor to the Activities Secretary by the deadline will result in removal from the tryout process. *Acknowledgement and Assumption of Potential Risk* is included as part of the www.athleticclearance.com registration. This form has you as the parent acknowledge that participation in dance team is completely voluntary and you (parent) understand that there could be potential risks involved.
- A copy of the *most recent semester/trimester (middle school) report card* demonstrating a 2.0 GPA or higher must be submitted by the deadline. Any student that does not possess a 2.0 GPA or higher on the most recent semester or trimester report card will be removed from the tryout process and will not be allowed to tryout. In the Conejo Valley Unified School District, academics are our first and highest priority, and there will be no exceptions to this rule. It is the responsibility of the student to manage her or his time in a way that allows her or him to maintain academic eligibility.
- A completed *Dance Team Application* which is included in this packet.
- A signed *Dance Student/Parent Agreement*, which is included in this packet.
- Deadline for submission of all paperwork listed above is:

MAY 18, 2021

WHS Dance Team Tryouts will be held indoors at WHS

Monday, May 24 4:00pm-5:15pm

Wednesday, May 26 12:30pm-3:00pm

Thursday, May 27 3:00pm-5:15pm

You must bring a printed copy of a Covid-19

Masks and social distancing are required!

Tryout Checklist

- _____ Westlake High School Dance Team Application
- _____ Dance Student/Parent Agreement
- _____ Head Shot (Sent as .JPG attached to Email)
- _____ \$30 Tryout Donation (To pay tryout judges)
Please make checks payable to: Westlake High School Dance Team
Mail to: Westlake High School Dance Team
100 N. Lakeview Canyon Road
Westlake Village, CA 91362
- _____ Athletic Clearance Statement of Consent Form from
www.AthleticClearance.com website – Please upload physical form to website.

ALL FORMS DUE: MAY 18, 2021

Please turn in packets to Jennifer Leese the Activities Secretary by email at jleese@conejousd.org.

Incomplete packets will not be accepted.

For further Dance Team Questions, please email Brandy Jones at wlh.danceteam.coachbrandy@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Westlake High School Dance Team Application

1. Personal Information

Name _____ Grade Next Year _____

Parents/Guardians _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Birth Date _____ Phone _____

Student E-mail Address _____

Parent E-mail Addresses _____

2. Dance Experience

Number of Years:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Style: | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hip-Hop | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary/Lyrical | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ |

Current Studio: _____

Competition and Performance Experience if any: _____

What assets would you contribute to the team as a dancer? As an individual?

Do you participate in any other outside activities?

Why do you want be on WHS Dance Team?

Any additional Information:

Dance Student/Parent Agreement

Parent/Guardian:

I/We, the parents of _____, have read the tryout information packet and the CVUSD Co-Curricular Code and Contract and understand all of the requirements for participation on the Westlake High School Dance Team. We realize this is a team effort and that we may be called upon to help throughout the year. We will make every effort to do our share of assisting on behalf of our student.

Signed _____

Dancer:

As a member of the WHS Dance Team, I have read the tryout information packet and the CVUSD Co-curricular Code and Contract and understand what is expected of me to remain in good standing. I will keep myself knowledgeable and informed of all rules and guidelines set forth in the WHS Dance Team Constitution. I will do all I can to uphold the honor and tradition of the WHS Dance Team and respect my team mates, my school, my choreographers, the team advisor, and all persons associated with Westlake High School.

Signed _____